Meeting information needs: mapping information for reporting and impact assessment.

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Session plan

Aims & background
Bev (10 mins)

How are we doing & what is next for impact? (& introduce exercise)
Sarah (15 mins)

Group discussions/exercise
All (40 mins)

Feedback from groups
All (15 mins)
Aim of workshop

To think about the strategic information/reporting needs of your organisation, using ‘domains of interest’ as a structure.

• identify strategic information needs/reporting frameworks
• future direction of travel
• identify any research outputs, outcomes and impacts that are poorly accommodated/not accommodated in the current question set
• areas of redundancy

• please note, not just about Researchfish!
Background – why assess impact?

Ever increasing need to be able to:

- demonstrate the benefits and value of the research being funded
- track/monitor/articulate research progress & impact
- improve and optimise impacts
- evidenced based policy and investment decision making
- understand research pathways and the subsequent impacts to inform the above (‘science of science’ research)
The 4 A’s

Advocacy: to demonstrate the benefits of supporting research

Accountability: to show that money has been used efficiently and effectively

Analysis: to understand how and why research is effective, feeding into research strategy

Allocation: making the best use of limited funding pot

Use of frameworks is common – impact/success/reporting

Benefits of having some form of framework:
• clear end goals
• agreed and defined steps & priorities
• demonstrate & monitor progress
• easy way to articulate this to disparate audiences
• leads to structured evidence base

.....enable all of the ‘why’s’ mentioned earlier.
Some frameworks:

‘Making a difference’ - 5 key areas of impact
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