FAQs: Sport Unites Learning Community

What is a Learning Community?

A Learning Community brings together 'like-minded' organisations and people to exchange knowledge and experiences, share methods and results and map out both commonalities and differences in approaches. An important ambition of the Sport Unites programme is to capture and share learning within the Sport Unites family and wider community sports sector.

For more information on Learning Communities **CLICK HERE**

How will participating benefit you?

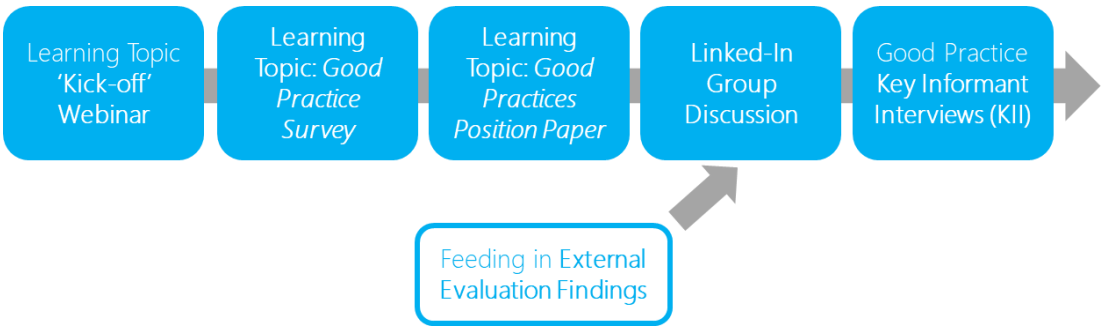
In addition to gaining access to inFocus **eLearning courses and training resources**, to get a comprehensive and clear understanding of **Impact Measurement and Management (IMM) practices**, there are three main benefits for you and your organisation from your active participation within the community:

- Learn from other people's experiences to avoid 'reinventing the wheel'
- Improve your service or product's quality through the identification and integration of existing good practices
- Gain access to a much wider knowledge and evidence base

For those particularly passionate about a topic and willing to help to moderate forum discussions and/ or be an expert panellist on the webinars, there will be additional benefits in terms of enhancing your personal and organisation's profile!

What will the Learning Community practically do and produce?

There are five stages across which the community members will work through for each topic being addressed:



1. **Initial 'kick-off' workshop (webinar)** – inFocus will use the kick-off webinar to introduce the community to the topic under discussion and a framework for identifying good practices and further learning about the topic. We will use the webinar to also

establish some **further learning questions** of interest to the community, to elucidate additional good practices when it comes to project design and delivery.

2. **Good Practices Survey** – we will circulate a survey to complete by the wider Learning Community members relating to the topic, to provide structured responses to key areas of good practice that the community wishes to explore further. The responses, along with inFocus's own research, will be analysed and a **Good Practices Position paper** will be produced.

3. **Good Practices Position Paper**- this will explore both the commonalities and differences in approaches across the community, and outline potential areas and aspects of good practice to be explored further.

4. **Linked-In group discussion** – supported by the Learning Lead (Dr Damian Hatton) a series of structured online discussions will then be moderated building upon the **position paper**. Documents/ multi-media files can also be shared by wider community members. We hope to gather in and further analyse any relevant research, examples of good practices and sources of information the community thinks are relevant and are able to share.

5. **Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with good practice exponents** – these interviews will then focus in on particular examples of good practice from across the community, contributing to our findings against a number of the **final evaluation questions**.

As a consequence of this series of discussions, knowledge exchanges and data collection, the inFocus team will translate the insights and learnings into **accessible learning materials** including 1) a **thematic case study** encompassing good practice guides, as well as; 2) **updated MEL resources** and; 3) a new **eLearning course** to share the learning freely with others, via a multi-media approach. Should Covid-19 restrictions lift later in the year, this learning and other insights from the wider evaluation work undertaken, will also be shared via a **one-day conference event hosted at City Hall** for all interested parties or alternatively via a **series of Public Webinars.**

What are the Learning Topics and Activity Timings?

The following table outlines all the specific Learning Topics we have planned across the next five months, along with dates and deadlines for the online workshops and forums:

Learning Topic	Kick-off workshop (webinar) dates
Key insights and lessons learnt when addressing social isolation / mixing through sport.	Tuesday June 23rd 10-11.30am
Key insights and lessons learnt when addressing mental health / wellbeing through sport.	Tuesday July 7th 10-11.30am
What are the key factors in engaging Sport Unites target groups?	Tuesday Aug 4th 10-11.30am
What are the key factors in sustaining Sport Unites participant involvement?	Tuesday Sept 1st 10-11.30am

Key insights and lessons learnt when tackling physical inactivity through sport	Tuesday Sept 29th 10-11.30am

Each Learning Topic will be covered in sequence to ensure sufficient focus on one topic, before moving onto the next.

Who will be moderating and coordinating the forum discussions and webinars each month?

Graham Spacey is a Senior Evaluator and Project Manager, having played a lead evaluator role on a number of Sport for Development initiatives. He joined the inFocus team in 2019 after 12 months working at the Olympic Study Centre, University of Johannesburg, where he managed a nationwide research project across South Africa, on the Quality of Physical Education and School Sport with SAUPEA and the Department for Basic Education funded by UNICEF. He is currently nearing completion of his Doctorate in Philosophy from the University of Johannesburg. He currently manages the evaluation of the Mayor of London's Sport Unites and Major Events Engagement Fund investment programmes.

How do I access the Learning Community webinars?

From the Sport Unites Learning Community page, you can access the **Learning Community Webinars** for registration purposes from this page, where you can easily sign up for the webinars.

There are **Learning Community Webinars** taking place every month **(see table above). NOTE:** these are in addition to the IMM Course webinars which are scheduled separately.

Once you have logged in and registered for a webinar, you will receive a personal link to jump into the webinar, directly from Zoom (the software we are using to run the webinar) along with instructions on how to access the webinar. If you have not received this, please email Kelly Crawshaw at kellyc@impactinfocus.com.

How long will the workshop webinars last?

The webinar will last 90 minutes, including a Q&A session, although we always try to stay on longer if there are more questions to answer!

What topics will the Learning workshop webinars cover?

The webinars will be unique however, each one will broadly cover the following topics:

- Review and validate the common Theory of Change against the experiences of fellow practitioners
- A group exercise to develop further learning questions of interest to the community
- Hear how other organisations are addressing any challenges/ good practices
- Connect with colleagues to brainstorm strategies and approaches used in practice
- Discuss new ideas and concepts
- Share and receive resources

Do I need to do anything in advance of the webinar?

We will be circulating a worksheet of specific questions for you to complete ahead of the webinar, which we will analyse and summarise as a first step during the webinar.

Is the webinar a video conference or will it just be using audio?

To help with internet connections, it will just be the host (running the webinar) that will be using a video while attendees will just be asked to join with audio. However, you do not need to join in on the audio if you don't want to, you can just type in your messages.

Will a recording of the webinar be available afterwards?

There will be a recording available early in the week following the webinar and this will be added to the webinar registration page, where there is a button called 'View Recording' (we realise some of you won't be able to make it onto the webinar live, so this is a good way to listen back)

How can I get technical support before or during the webinar?

We will do our best to support you if you experience technical difficulties during the webinar, however, we may not be able to help everyone. If you do face difficulties please email Kelly at kellyc@impactinfocus.com.

What level of internet access do I need to join the webinar?

You will need a reliable internet connection to join in the call, and speakers/headphones/ head-sets if you plan to join in on the audio.

How do I access and participate in the Learning Community forums?

From the Sport Unites Learning Community page, you can **SUBSCRIBE** to the Learning Community **Main Forum** (used for member introductions and general questions) and the

Sub-Forums (used for focused discussions on each Learning Topic). Once logged-in you can access the Sport Unites Learning Community page **HERE**.

You will be notified via a monthly **Learning Community Newsletter** when each Sub-Forum will be launched which will be marked by an online **LIVE Subject Matter Expert Q&A Session** where you will get LIVE responses to any questions posed.

Once you have **SUBSCRIBED** to a forum, you will receive email notification whenever another member of the forum posts to the forum or replies to a post.

We recommend that each person **SUBSCRIBES** to **at least two learning topics (Sub-Forums),** but you can participate in as many as you like!

Participating in a structured online forum discussion of this type may be a new experience for you, so we have drawn up some **Learning Discussion Guidelines** which we would like you to follow to help enhance the experience and the quality of the learning outputs.