

CDHN have been involved in the Inspiring Impact Programme, which seeks to put impact at the heart of the community and voluntary sector and embed impact practice within organisations. Through our work we have found that organisations place value on impact practice and want to embed it in their organization but can find the language and tools alien. This resource is an **introductory** guide to some of the concepts and tools.

What is impact?

The board or long range effects of a project or organisations work. It is the difference or change you create. This can include effects on people who are direct users of a project or organisations work, effects on those who are not direct users (local community), or effects on a wider field such as government policy.

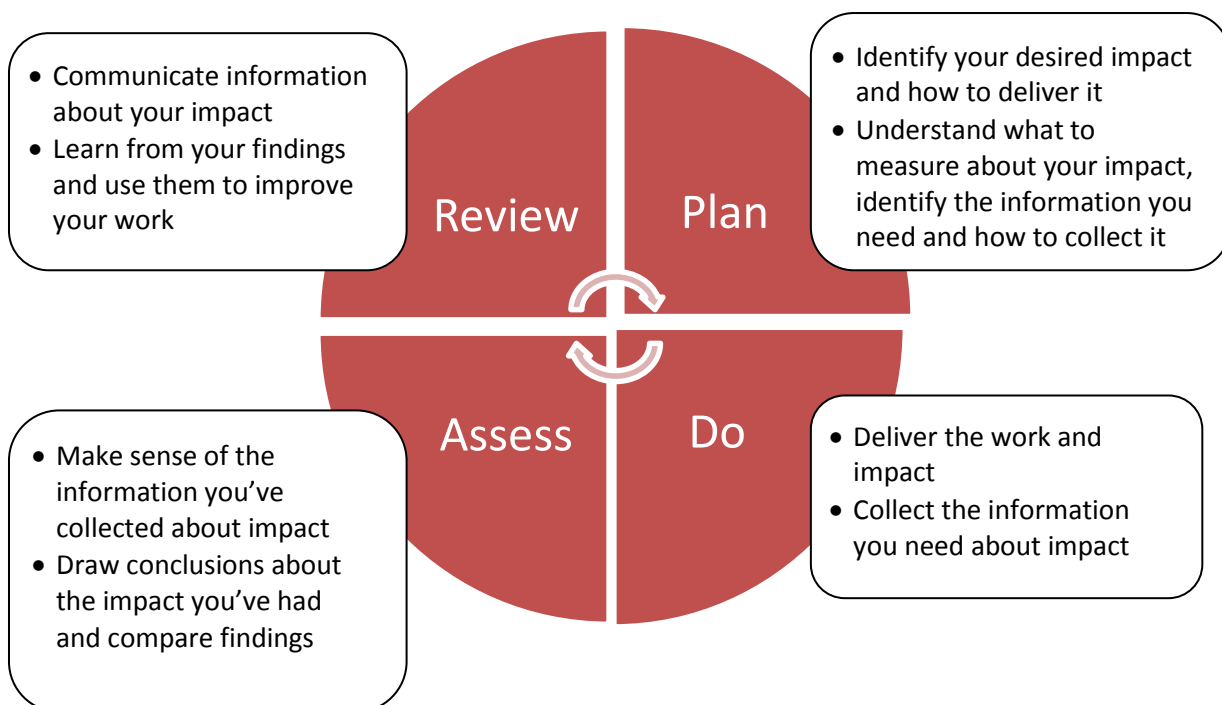
What is impact practice?

This is the range of activities that an organization undertakes to focus on its impact. This can include planning for desired impact, planning how to measure it, collecting information about it, making sense of that information, communicating and learning from it.

The Code of Good Impact Practice

The Code of Good Impact Practice provides broad, agreed guidelines for focusing on impact. It sets out a cycle of impact practice and a series of high level principles to follow.

The cycle of impact practice



Introducing Impact

21

FACTSHEET

The principles of impact practice

1. Take responsibility for impact and encourage others to do so too.
2. Focus on purpose.
3. Involve others in your impact practice.
4. Apply proportionate and appropriate methods and resources.
5. Consider the full range of the difference you actually make.
6. Be honest and open.
7. Be willing to change and act on what you find.
8. Actively share your impact plans, methods, findings and learning.

Check out [Inspiring impact](#) for more detail

Jargon Busting

Inputs

What is needed to carry out the work. Example, knowledge, expertise and skills (from community, staff or others) resources (financial, time, buildings)

Activities/processes

The actions which are undertaken by various contributors.

Outputs

The results of the activities. Example, number of attendees and number of sessions held.

Indicators

A measure used to gauge or quantify an outcome, output or process.

Baseline

A measurement at the start of the project/programme to enable comparison during and at the end, so the distance travelled can be captured.

Outcomes

The change brought about as a result of your work. Short term outcomes (what happens now or near future) help build towards long term outcomes (what happens further in the future)

Unintended outcomes

Outcomes which you did not expect or plan to happen as a result of your work.

Shared outcomes

The results or changes which both you and other organisations/agencies want to or have achieved.

IMPACT

The longer term difference or change which your work makes.

Outcomes based

You will hear terms such as outcomes based practice, accountability and commissioning. These mean that they are driven by outcome (difference made), impact is at the heart of what they do rather than processes and efficiencies. It is about understanding at what is done, how well it is done and how much better off anyone is and/or how many are better off as a result.