

ANALYTICAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMME 2019

The 2019 Analytical Exchange Programme invites bids from voluntary organisations in Scotland for very short sharp projects (up to 10 person days) where statistical or analytical skills could make a difference to your organisation. The way this would work is individuals or small groups of Scottish Government analysts (one or two people) act as an analytical consultancy to solve problems in your organisation and would be delivered at no cost to you.

This scheme has run each year since 2012. In total Scottish Government analysts have supported over 175 projects providing a total of around 600 days of support to 3rd sector organisations. Most placements were about either (a) evaluation methodologies – how you measure success (b) bringing together evidence around a subject or (c) data management/making the most of data you collect. However, you have the potential to look at other things, like data visualisation or how you structure a significant problem.

For example: Gregor Berry, Assistant Statistician in Local Government Finance, spent about a week working with The Welcoming – a charity which helps newcomers adapt to life in Scotland.

“The Welcoming wanted help recording and analysing information about the people attending their classes to help demonstrate their impact. After setting up a digital membership form and class registers to collect the underlying information, I worked with them to design a prototype summary report. I then worked to produce an automated solution which enabled them to reproduce this report independently on a regular basis.

“Feedback from The Welcoming was very positive, with monthly reports now being routinely discussed at their board meetings and the information being used in funding applications. The project was also a valuable experience for me – as well as helping an organisation which does great work, I was able to tailor the project to enable me to develop new technical skills.”

If this is something that you think your organisation could benefit from, please complete the short attached application and send this to Robert Mitchell by e-mail: chiefstatistician@gov.scot by Friday 1st March.

Matching analysts to organisations will happen soon after and then it will be up to matched analysts and organisations to arrange a mutually beneficial time to do the work.

A slight note of caution is that, based upon the level of interest last year, there may well need to be some prioritisation. Shorter pieces of work may be favoured to maximise the spread of this scheme. I look forward to reading your bids and if you have any questions beforehand, also drop me a note on the e-mail address above.

Please send on this to other Scottish 3rd sector organisations or read Robert Mitchell's blog here; <https://blogs.gov.scot/digital/2019/01/24/analytical-exchange-programme-now-open-for-bids/>