



The Evidence Masterclass

Background

The Alliance for Useful Evidence is network, hosted by the UK's innovation charity Nesta, that champions the smarter use of evidence in social policy and practice. The Alliance achieves its aims through three main strands of work, (1) publishing research and ideas, (2) providing advice and advocacy, and (3) delivering training and skills. Our Evidence Masterclass is a key component of our training and skills offer.

Purpose

The Evidence Masterclass takes senior decision-makers on an evidence journey, developing their confidence in building the case for evidence use, understanding where to look for the most appropriate evidence for their context, and how to communicate it to have the most impact.

The Masterclass draws on the evidence for what we know supports effective professional learning and behaviour change. By using simulation activities and practical examples, it places participants into the thick of real decision-making and the challenges of using evidence. This supports individuals to reflect, learn and develop their competence by problem-solving with peers.

Audience

To date, the Masterclass has been delivered mostly within the UK, to voluntary (charity) and public sector leaders, senior managers from local government, and senior civil servants from national government departments.

Content

An outline agenda for a typical course:

- Why we use evidence to inform decisions
- 'Horses for Courses' - What evidence to choose - *this session includes how to select the most appropriate evidence for your need and how to determine evidence quality*
- Group exercise - *simulation in which participants are set a particular question, and then have the opportunity to review and judge the quality of a range of relevant sources of evidence (both on and off line, and written and oral), summarise this and present their findings back to the group.*
- Reflection on exercise
- Where to find evidence
- How to communicate evidence - *only covered if applicable to the cohort*

NB, the content of the session closely mirrors the content of our 'Using Research Evidence: A Practice Guide', which participants receive a copy of on the day. For those not able to attend a Masterclass, the guide also works as a standalone publication, and is available to download for free from our website:

<https://www.alliance4usefulevidence.org/publication/using-research-evidence-a-practice-guide-january-2016/>.

Format

One day course, with around 15 participants. The course is delivered by one of our team of expert facilitators, who have a wealth of experience of evidence use in policy or practice in government and civil society. Participants are encouraged to contribute and share with one another throughout the day, with group activities built in throughout the sessions.

We encourage commissioners to consider how they will prepare participants for the course and support them afterwards, to ensure they get the most from the day and that learning is embedded.

Further information

Visit the Alliance for Useful Evidence website: <https://www.alliance4usefulevidence.org>

Contact the Alliance for Useful Evidence team: alliance.4usefulevidence@nesta.org.uk