

Summary of an Independent Social Return on Investment Evaluation of Project SEARCH

This paper summarises the “SROI Evaluation Project SEARCH For North Lanarkshire Council”, which was undertaken by Social Value Lab in 2013 on behalf of North Lanarkshire Council (NLC).

Background:

Project SEARCH is an internationally recognised, evidence-based transition to work programme for young people with learning disabilities and autism developed in the USA. DFN Project SEARCH holds the exclusive master franchise rights in the UK, Ireland, and Iberia.

Scope:

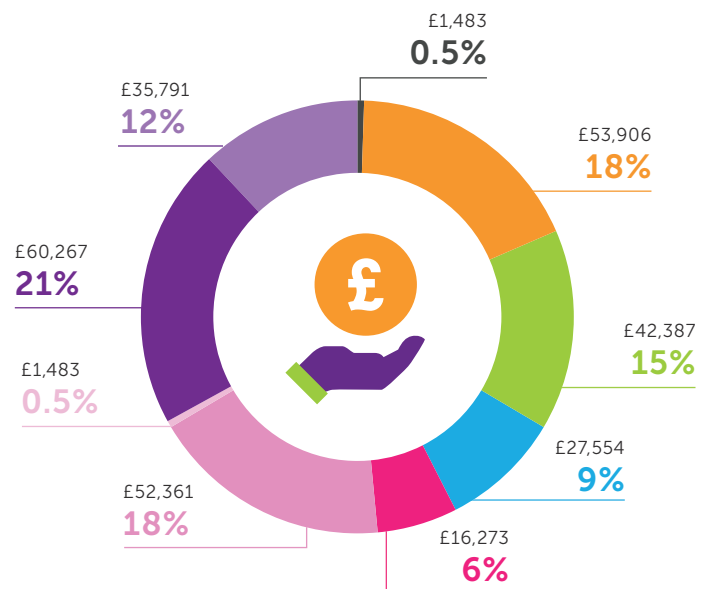
The purpose of the SROI evaluation was to understand the social, economic and environmental value created by Project SEARCH in North Lanarkshire. The SROI evaluation was independently done and focussed on the Project SEARCH pilot site in Wishaw General Hospital, which was by then at its third cohort of interns (September 2011 to August 2012).

Key Findings:

Using well-established proxies, the SROI established that the total value created by **Project SEARCH was £276,659**. The total investment was £69,910, of which £29,768 came from NLC and £40,142 from Motherwell College. Subtracting the investment from the total value, the final value created was **£206,749**. This gives an SROI ratio of £3.96: £1, which means that **for every pound invested in Project SEARCH £3.96 was created**. And this did not include financial gains of graduates who had a job (employees) and their families.

As shown in the chart below, the Government was the largest beneficiary, **receiving £148,419** in the form of monetary savings and acquisition of skills when the NHS, Local Authority and Scottish Government are combined. Young people doing the internship (students) and former students who had a job (employees) were the second largest grouped impacted, **receiving £96,293** in social value, which represents 33% of the total created.

Value created for each stakeholder



The table below details the outcomes of each stakeholder. The impact was estimated using well-established financial proxies (p.12). As usual in a SROI, the role of other stakeholders in achieving outcomes (attribution), the proportion of outcomes that would be met without Project SEARCH (deadweight) and the duration of the impact (drop-off) were discounted from the final value.

Stakeholders outcomes

Stakeholder	Outcomes	Quantity	Impact
Graduates	Increased happiness	6	£939.60
	Increased structure in life	3	£831.55
	Increased purpose in life	3	£469.80
	Improved social skills	3	£927.39
	More friends	8	£623.14
	Increased confidence	7	£6,549.90
	Improved physical health	6	£1,612.35
	Increased independence	7	£6,412.77
	Increased skills	6	£6,840.29
	Students	Increased purpose in life	4
More friends		6	£467.36
Increased confidence		7	£6,549.80
Improved physical health		3	£806.18
Increased independence		7	£6,412.77
Increased skills		4	£4,560.19
Parent/Carers	More time to do other things (break from caring)	13	£2,847.98
	Increased peace of mind	13	£5,445.77
	Changed attitude son / daughter	15	£5,567.06
	Happier son / daughter	13	£1,475.96

Stakeholder	Outcomes	Quantity	Impact
	Improved family relationships	3	£810.41
	Son / daughter can handle change better	10	£1,879.20
	Worries the job will come to an end	3	-£428.88
	Concern because they may be financially worse off	3	-£520.00
Supervisors	Increased management skills	8	£7,680.00
NHS (employer)	Increased understanding/ ability to employ disabled people	1	£700.00
	Reduced use of health services	10	£29,169.29
SERCO (employer)	Increased understanding/ ability to employ disabled people	1	£700.00
Scottish Government	Reduction in benefits	8	£34,552.44
NLC	Reduction of local authority support	15	£20,520.00
Motherwell College	Increased understanding/ ability to teach disabled people	1	£700.00

Conclusion:

The SORI evaluation showed that Project SEARCH created a very high return: £3.96 for every £1 invested. The evaluation also showed that the gains were shared among all stakeholders, and largely benefited the Scottish Government, North Lanarkshire Council, the NHS and young people with learning disabilities and their families. On a side note, the programme at Wishaw General Hospital is still running and has been rolled-out to further sites in Scotland at University Hospital Hairmyres and University Hospital Monklands.

Reference

Social Value Lab, 2013. SROI Evaluation Project SEARCH For North Lanarkshire Council.

DOI: <http://www.socialvaluelab.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/SROI-Report-Project-Search-Final.pdf>