



Developing Skills. Building Capacity. Adding Value.

Rocket Science provides a diverse range of additional support and tools to complement our grant management, research and evaluation services. Available as discrete projects or complementing existing contracts, these additional services draw on the expertise, experience and networks of our trusted staff and advisors across the UK.

Developing Skills

We have always been enthusiastic about building and developing the skills of the people we work with and do this in several ways.



Peer Research

Peer research is recognised as a valuable tool in understanding hidden needs, capturing unheard voices and embedding lived experience.

Our Peer Research Academy, launched in 2024, provides:

- Courses to train peers and design research tools and approaches for individual projects.
- Support and ongoing management in the field.
- Accreditation and award.
- Administration of payment at Real Living Wage equivalent rates.
- Train the trainer and accreditation for organisations wanting to build their peer research capacity.
- Supporting peer researchers to move into social research, participatory grant-making or other related career opportunities.



Communities of Learning

Reflective practice, building networks and learning and development are all integral to effective research and evaluation.

As a learning partner, we support organisations with different approaches including:

- Facilitating action learning sets to develop projects, policy and guidance.
- Managing test and learn programmes to identify what works and help to scale innovation.
- Developing communities of learning to share practice and build networks.

The benefits of collaborative learning can be invaluable, particularly for smaller organisations with limited time and resources.

Our online learning community platform with mobile functionality operates like a Facebook group, curated and supported by our team. It provides a dynamic and interactive way for people to connect, share events, reports and learning opportunities. This facilitates real-time collaboration at a pace suited to your needs.



Training

We provide a range of one or half-day training sessions tailored to the needs of your organisation. These are used as additional support when applying for grants as part of the exit from a grant, or just to help upskill organisations.

Areas we cover include:

- How to do a Theory of Change.
- Evaluation framework development.
- Communicating your impact.
- Designing your services.
- Mapping your services.
- How to cost your services.
- Developing your pitch.
- Embedding trauma-informed approaches in your organisation.
- Preparing for due diligence checks.

Building Capacity

We support organisations to build their capacity in three ways:

- **Organisational advice and help.**
- **Monitoring, evaluation and impact reporting.**
- **Interim Plus providing short-term help to manage demand or cover staff absence supported by a back-office team.**



Organisational Support

Through our own networks, or in partnership with specialist providers, we help organisations with:

- Assessment and diagnosis of needs – we have an assessment tool to help leadership teams reflect on assets and weaknesses within an organisation.
- Governance and leadership coaching – we have a bank of associates who provide tailored support to help organisations navigate the challenges they are facing.
- Business planning and strategic development support, including service design and review, strategy and board facilitation.
- Business development strategies, including support for scaling into new areas.
- Developing bids and proposals, including partnerships and supply chain development.
- Partnership assessment and support – using our scorecard to review the effectiveness of partnerships and identify areas of strength and development.



Monitoring and Evaluation

Helping organisations to develop their own monitoring and evaluation skills and practice is something we care about and do by:

- Delivering one-to-one or group training on how to develop a Theory of Change, Logic Models and Outcomes Frameworks.
- Consultancy support for developing a Theory of Change and monitoring and evaluation framework to sit alongside, or independently of the training.
- One-to-one or group training on how to develop service maps and customer journeys, which can support bids and impact reporting.
- Designing monitoring and evaluation tools, including data capture methods, surveys and distance-travelled tools.



Interim Plus

We can provide interim support to help you manage short-term capacity needs or to cover for staff absence. Using our networks of trusted advisors, experts and assessors, alongside additional capacity from our core team, you get much more for your money per day than using an agency.

Our back-office support includes:

- Research capacity to support desk reviews, benchmarking and consultation.
- Facilitation and workshop support.
- Grant design, application management and assessment.
- Discrete project management and support.
- Bid writing and business development strategies.

Adding Value

We can add value to research, evaluation and grant management services in many ways. However, the following are tools and methods that can really make a difference, taking your insight and impact to new levels and help you take the next steps in implementing changes to your programmes and projects.



Social Return on Investment

Social Return on Investment (SROI) is a recognised tool to help organisations demonstrate impact. We embed an SROI approach in many of our evaluations; we can also offer this independently as a method for assessing the impact of a grant or programme.

As members of Social Value UK, we also offer:

- SROI case studies – where we look at the impact of a programme from an individual perspective based on qualitative and quantitative data. This is useful for understanding the wider benefits for the individual which might not otherwise be captured.
- SROI ‘measure as you go tool’ – we can create bespoke tools to help projects report on their SROI regularly which can be attractive to funders and commissioners.
- Advice on which methodology, Cost Benefit Analysis, SROI or other measurement is appropriate for your project.



Data Insight Legacy Tools

We help our clients to continue to use and visualise their data using our interactive dashboards. We create accessible, custom-made and branded visual dashboards, alongside data collection, analysis and measurement tools. With training from our team and a managed handover, we create the capacity and skills in your team to continue to collect and analyse data once we have gone. This can significantly reduce the burden of data collection on organisations, and helps compare programmes and outcomes over time. And the platform is free!



Implementation

Finally, we can help turn recommendations into action. With many of our team having worked on frontline service delivery with local government, charities and funders, we know what it takes to mobilise programmes and change at pace. Using our Interim Plus, consultancy and advice services, or as a critical friend, we can help you get your programmes off the ground.

Find out more:

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