



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

Reflections on doing research with the third sector

Dr Anthea Hucklesby

Centre for Criminal Justice Studies

University of Leeds

A.L.Hucklesby@leeds.ac.uk

Research in the Third Sector

- ◆ Wide range of research activity
 - ◆ In house evaluation/research
 - ◆ Individuals often university students
 - ◆ Practitioners/academics linked to the organisation
 - ◆ Research organisations
 - ◆ Academics
- ◆ Considerations
 - ◆ Resources
 - ◆ Time



Normative issues

- ◆ What is the purpose of the research?
 - ◆ Robust research evidence
 - ◆ Find out how an intervention works and its impact on various factors
 - ◆ Improve the intervention
 - ◆ To validate an approach/practice/intervention

Ethics

- ◆ Codes of ethics
 - ◆ Professional organisations (eg. British Society of Criminology)
 - ◆ University ethical codes
- ◆ Key ethical principles
 - ◆ Informed consent
 - ◆ Anonymity
- ◆ Permissions from partner organisations to use data sourced from them

Aims of the project

- ◆ Clear and measurable aims and objectives
- ◆ Distinction between outputs and outcomes

Practical issues

- ◆ When to evaluate
 - ◆ Quick results
 - ◆ Short-term projects
- ◆ Sample sizes
- ◆ Data availability
- ◆ Disentangling impacts

Dissemination

- ◆ Within projects
 - ◆ Research participants

- ◆ Outwith projects
 - ◆ Funders
 - ◆ TSOs
 - ◆ government

Concluding comments

- ◆ Benefits of independent research outweigh the downsides
- ◆ Researchers are 'critical friends'