

A manifesto for evaluation

A brighter future for society



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Evaluation affects every person in the UK

People across the political spectrum are feeling the strain of public funds and services stretched to the limit.

Every year, the government spends billions of pounds of taxpayers' money on policies that impact healthcare, education, housing, transportation, immigration, and defence.

Proper scrutiny and evaluation of these policies leads to better outcomes for people and society.

That is why we are calling on the next government to put evaluation at the heart of the government policy-making process.



Why evaluation in policy making is vital

For government policies to be effective, efficient and provide value for money, they must be properly evaluated.

Objectively evaluating policies tells us what's working, what's not and helps us learn. It helps cut waste and inefficiency, and makes sure every penny of taxpayers' money is spent wisely.

Despite efforts to increase and promote the use of evaluation in government policy-making, there is still more that can be done.

An HM Treasury report shows only 8% of government spending on major projects had evaluation plans in place, while 64% had no evaluation plan at all.

Evaluation Manifesto

A lifeline for better outcomes

Evaluation is a critical step in government policy making that saves and changes lives. To secure better outcomes for society, it is critical that the full power of evaluation is realised.

In our manifesto, we urge the next government to prioritise evaluation in all major decision making, by committing to:

1 EVIDENCE



Evidence-Based Policy Making

Major policies need to be grounded in robust evidence, drawing from reputable sources. By implementing strategies proven to be effective, the government can maximise resource use and deliver better outcomes for society.

2 STRATEGY



Long-Term Evaluation Strategy

Implementing a long-term strategy for policy evaluation is vital. It leads to continuous improvement in decision-making, greater impact, and will reinforce the UK's position as a world leader in the application of evidence in policy and practice.

3 TRANSPARENCY



Transparency in Evaluation

Strengthening commitment to publish all evaluation findings regardless of the results. To grow public trust and foster a culture of continuous learning within government, we ask that evaluation results are published for all major policies.

4 FUNDING



Adequate Funding for Growth

Providing sufficient funding to build the capacity of the evaluation workforce. Making funding available to support robust evaluation is essential to deliver value for money for taxpayers and cut waste and inefficiency.



Evaluation in action

Effective evaluation drives positive change across many sectors. The following examples underscore the essential role of evaluation in delivering impactful outcomes for society.

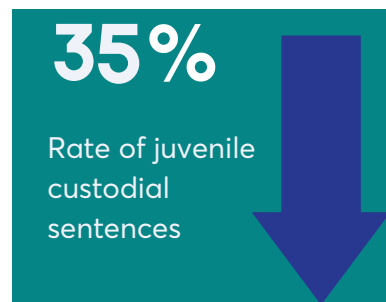
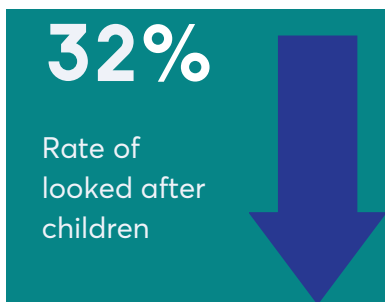
Supporting families

Between 2015 and 2020, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities ran a £920m programme to support 400,000 at risk families.

The programme covered crime, & anti social behaviour, children not attending school regularly, financial exclusion, child protection, domestic violence and abuse, and health problems.

Evaluation showed positive outcomes were delivered two years after joining the programme.

Results included reductions in:



Based on the findings, it was concluded the programme represented good value for money. Every £1 spent returned £2.28 of economic benefits and £1.51 of financial benefits.

Source: [Supporting Families Evaluation Programme](#)

Police and crime reduction

Another example comes from the College of Policing and its What Works Centre for Crime Reduction. It led what was, at the time, the world's largest randomised trial of body-worn video cameras by police.

It was unclear how officers and the public would react to the cameras, so this was tested in a trial involving more than 2,000 police officers across ten London boroughs.

The findings showed that cameras led to a fall in complaints against officers, and that officers on average did not change how they implemented stop and search.

This evidence convinced the Metropolitan Police to fully scale-up the technology, which led to all 22,000 frontline officers across the Metropolitan Police Service being issued a camera.

22,000



frontline officers issued with a body-cam following evaluation of evidence.

Source: [What Works Network Strategy](#)



How to make a difference

Our manifesto sets out the ways the next government can use evaluation to lead to better outcomes and a brighter future for society.

By working together, we can make a difference.

Political parties, candidates and policy makers

We encourage all parties and candidates to speak with us ahead of the election to provide deeper insight and guidance on how these commitments ensure a brighter future for all and a positive difference.



Talk to candidates and your MP

Contacting your parliamentary candidates or MP is a great way to raise awareness about the importance of evaluation in the policy-making process.

They are there to represent your views, so letting them know what matters to you is important. There are several ways you can contact them:

- Social media
- Discover who your local candidate is and how to contact them [here](#).
- Many MPs hold regular sessions called surgeries where you can raise issues of concern.
- Write to your MP at House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

You can find out who your MP is and further information about how to contact them [here](#).



The UK Evaluation Society was established in 1994 and is the principal professional membership organisation for evaluation in the UK. We aim to set the standard for evaluation practice by providing leadership, a safe learning environment and championing the vital contribution evaluation plays to human endeavour.

Join us

[evaluation.org.uk](https://www.evaluation.org.uk)