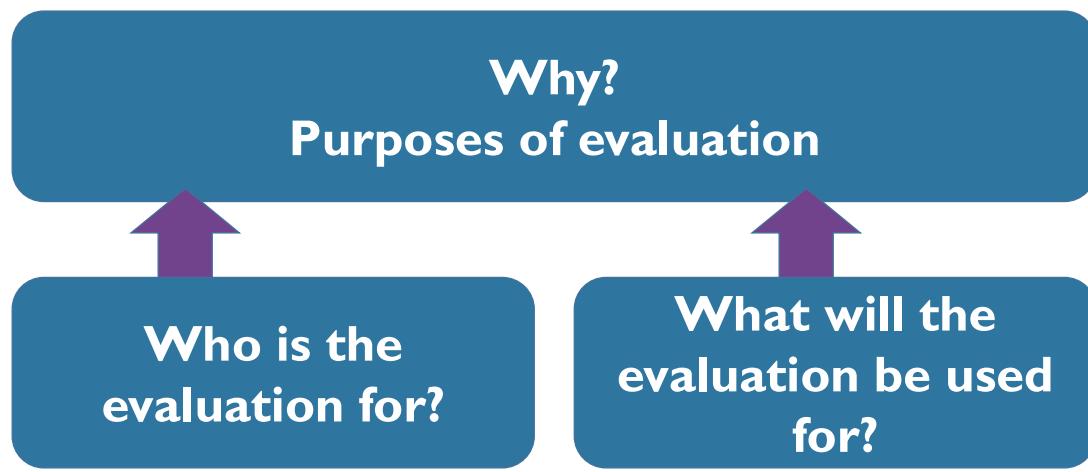


When to evaluate

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All questions about when and what to evaluate have to start with why evaluate: what is the purpose of your evaluation?

The purposes of evaluation are many and varied. However, what they generally have in common is that they are a means to an end: they are about judging or assessing something to ascertain its effectiveness, performance, scalability or value for money, for example, as the basis for future improvements or decision-making.

And that leads us on to the next question: who do we evaluate for? Who is going to use the results of the evaluation? Who is making those improvements or taking those decisions? Why we evaluate is inextricably linked to who the evaluation is for.

Making improvements (formative evaluation)

NERUPI *evaluation*
FRAMEWORK

Why?

Revising / improving the activity for the future

Continuous improvement; piloting, redesigning or reviewing

Who for?

The team delivering the activity (and other stakeholders)

To use for?

Identifying strengths and weaknesses - what went well; what needs changing

Formative assessment is about making improvements to the activity while summative assessment is about judging the results of the activity.

In practice, this is more of a continuum and often our evaluation is doing a bit of both. A formative evaluation may well consider whether the outcomes are achieved, for example, and a summative evaluation may consider the impact of how the activity was delivered and who by, etc.

Judging results (summative evaluation)

NERUPI *evaluation*
FRAMEWORK

Why?

Monitoring, tracking, capturing outcomes and impact

Does it work or what works; final or longer –term evaluation

Who for?

APP Committee; regulators; partners; the sector

To use for:

Identifying change and whether the activity led to / contributed to desired change

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Components of evaluation by purpose

Process - continuous improvement

Monitoring - judging results

Tracking - judging results

Outcomes - judging results

Impact - judging results

See the template in NERUPI resources:

<https://www.nerupi.co.uk/members/resources/evaluation-process-planning-template>

Thinking about the purposes of evaluation helps us to focus in on when we need to evaluate our access and participation activities.

- Does it need to be evaluated? IE: Is there a purpose?
- If so when and how often should we evaluate it? IE: What is the purpose?



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