Health Innovation West of England

Terms of Reference

Name of Group: Evaluation Online Network (EON)

Title: Terms of reference 20th April 2026 Version 3.0

Date authorised:	**20th April 2026**
Review due date:	**19th April 2027**
Expiry date:	**19th April 2028**

1 Purpose and Scope:

The Evaluation Online Network (EON) exists to promote and improve the theory, practice and impact of evaluation. The EON will engage a broad and diverse group of people and organisations in advocating for more, and higher quality evaluations. Its membership should be diverse, comprising evaluation professionals, practitioners, independent consultants and evaluation commissioners from across national or local government, the voluntary sector and the research and evaluation community.

Members will represent a range of specialties or sectors, working in health and social care, local authority, education or community development, and various disciplines in the social sciences, economics and science and technology. We welcome members from all those working or interested in evaluation.

2 Network Aims and Objectives:

The EON aims to raise the profile and use of high-quality evaluation through:

i) Connecting researchers and evaluators who carry out or have an interest in evaluation methodology and approaches.
ii) Strengthening the evaluation profession by facilitating expert and peer to peer support for members.
iii) Supporting those working in the field of evaluation to develop good practice and innovation in a wider evaluation community.
iv) Promoting the value of evaluation and evidence for strategic and policy decision-making.

3 Values and Principles:

Our values and member behaviours underpin the ethos of the EON. Members shall abide by the following principles:

i) Use the EON as a forum for discussion and expertise support
ii) Posts should be related to research or evaluation content

iii) Use the forum for sharing opportunities related to evaluation such as tenders or related job vacancies
iv) Use the forum in a professional capacity only, and seek support from the EON Leads for any clarifications

4 Membership:

Membership of the EON is open to individuals or organisations on the condition that they:

i) Endorse the Vision and Purpose of the EON
ii) Abide by the EON values and principles in their EON communications and activities

There are no restrictions on the number of members, and it will be open to paid/professional research evaluation practitioners and public members. Membership will exist for as long as an individual subscribes to JISC Mail or until they advise the EON Leads they wish to be removed. Individuals can also participate in the EON via the LinkedIn Group and Bluesky account.

5 Accountability:

The Network is managed by Health Innovation West of England (HIWE). This management will be provided by a Steering Group, who will meet monthly to report on EON activities, and agree priorities for planned activities. The Steering Group will comprise of at least 2 HIWE members, and a minimum of 2 additional members will be invited from EON membership.

Individuals will be part of the Steering Group for an initial 12-month duration and will be reviewed alongside the Terms of Reference. An annual summary report will be written and shared.

6 Meetings:

Administrative support for meetings will be provided by HIWE. Papers will be circulated one week in advance of the meeting with an agenda and review data from the EON (membership numbers, posts, interactions).

7 Review:

The aims and objectives of the EON will be reviewed annually, and this Terms of Reference will expire every three years.

8 Ways of working:

The EON will aim to work collaboratively with interested partners, such as the UK Evaluation Society. The EON currently communicates via JISC Mail. Past posts are available via the web tool; members can unsubscribe at any time.

The EON will also use Bluesky and a public LinkedIn Group to increase visibility and offer multiple channels for members to interact with the Network.

9 Sharing of information and resources (including confidential materials)

Members can share information and resources via the EON JISC Mail and public LinkedIn Group. Posts can be seen by all members of the Network, therefore content should adhere to the principles of confidentiality, and content should be considered suitable for the public domain, as the EON cannot be responsible for content re-shared beyond the Network. Posts that are deemed to infringe confidentiality, copyright, or intellectual property will be removed by HIWE administrators.

Posts are not moderated before being shared widely, and content which is not aligned to the values and principles outlined in section 3 will be removed. The content poster will be contacted to inform them of the removal and reasons why.

For further information about the Evaluation Online Network please contact: healthinnowest.evaluation@nhs.net