

Rocket Science Example

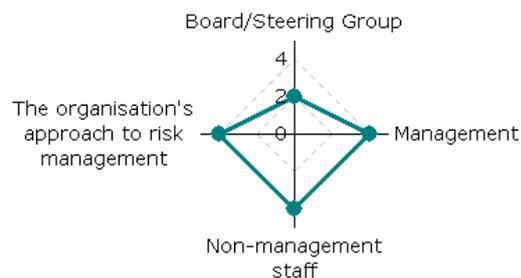
As an example of the Rocket Science report and how it highlights any organisational weaknesses please see the example below, that details the 4 areas, any weaknesses, how officers will assist, and an overarching summary graph.

Leadership – The report clearly highlights that there are issues with the Board of trustees. The associated narrative completed by the organisation goes on to tell us that the board are all relatively new and inexperienced, and that having completed a skills audit, there is a definite lack of finance and budgeting experience.

Leadership

This chart shows how well you perceive the leadership of the organisation in managing change. It will help to pinpoint where you may need to focus extra support or development.

Average score: 3.5



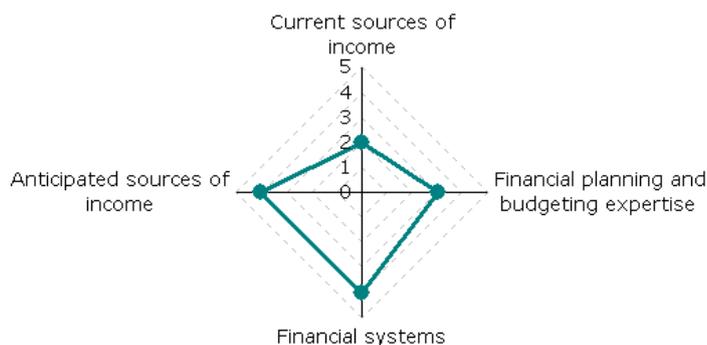
Officer response – To work with the organisation to help firstly identify potential training and/or mentoring opportunities for the trustees, and to then put them in contact with the Volunteer Centre Lewisham to see if there are any potential volunteers looking for a leadership opportunity that have the requisite finance and budgeting experience (that could potentially be co-opted onto the board in the first instance, followed by a more exhaustive recruitment process.)

Finance – The report refers again to the lack of skills at board level regarding finance and budgeting, but also goes on to highlight the issues around diversifying their funding streams. The organisation has recently seen a cut in funding streams, but have identified this as an issue and want to work and collaborate with other similar or complementary organisations, as well as see if they can deliver a separate profitable service to subsidise their current work.

Finance

This chart shows the financial resilience of the organisation. It will help to pinpoint where you may need to focus extra support or development.

Average score: 3.3



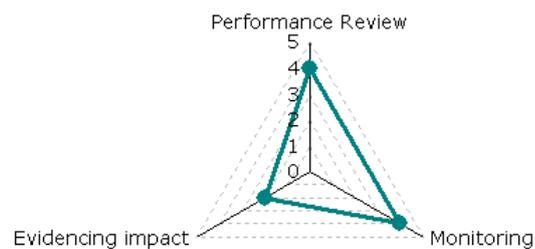
Officer response – The trustee element is already covered above, however, regarding alternative funding streams, income generation and partnership working we will work with the organisation to help identify other providers that could be worthwhile partners and help them explore how they can bid for funding in partnership. Additionally, some of the services provided could be the sort of thing that philanthropic individuals would be interested in, so have suggested exploring crowd funding in the first instance (and Spacehive in particular). Regarding other income sources, we have identified that the organisations doesn't currently make full use of its' premises as a result of funding cuts and a reduced workforce, and have suggested either looking to bring a partner in to share space or consider taking advantage of the new Voluntary and Community Sector Hubs.

Demonstrating Impact - In this instance the report highlights that the organisation, whilst adept at completing monitoring and ensuring the requisite boxes are ticked, are poor at evidencing the impact of their work. They know how many people they have seen and had contact with, but can't show the impact that their service has had on those people's wellbeing.

Demonstrating impact

This chart shows how well your organisation demonstrates the impact it has. It will help to pinpoint where you may need to focus extra support or development.

Average score: 3.3

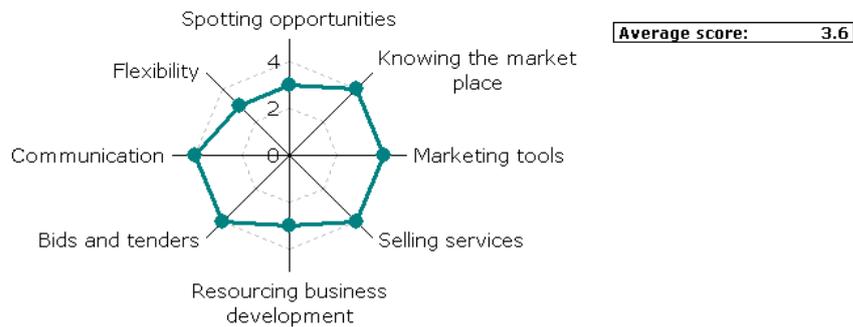


Officer response – Share current best practice with the organisation regarding effective evaluation of service delivery, to include template evaluation forms, links with a known organisation that currently does this element well, and the opportunity to discuss the importance at evidencing impact (particularly in the current climate) at one of their board meetings.

Business Development – The report shows that in general the organisation is aware of the opportunities open to it, and indeed the narrative highlights that the organisation is moving to a new stage in it's development, looking to work more flexibly and with the support of the board, able to take advantage of relevant opportunities when they come along, as well as exploring new ways of working.

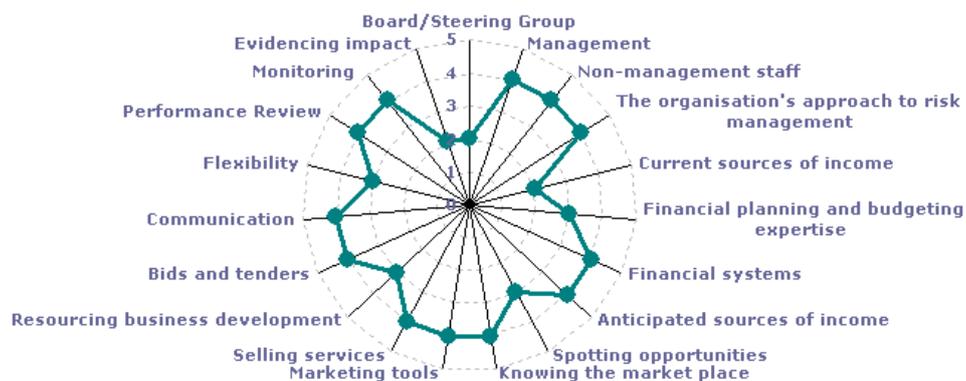
Business development

This chart shows how well your organisation develops its business. It will help to pinpoint where you may need to focus extra support or development.



Officer response – The narrative is very positive towards the future, and the direction in which the organisation is going. We will look to continue to encourage the organisation to work more collaboratively, and ensure that any opportunities that we are made aware of are communicated swiftly to allow the organisation time to decide on any course of action. We have also suggested to the organisation to sign up to Voluntary Action Lewisham, and to play a part within the relevant forums and working groups that are currently looking at how organisations change and adapt.

Finally, the overarching summary graph shows in detail where the organisation thinks its strengths and weaknesses lie.



As we can see, the graph reinforces the fact that the organisation is heading in the right direction but obviously has some issues around income streams, the board and how they evidence impact.