Leeds Social Science Institute PGR placement: end of placement report

Placement: re’new

Project: ‘To research and scope out a model for effective measurement of the social outcomes of re’new’s activities’

Summary of project: Produced a report focusing on Social Return on Investment (SROI), a method of measuring the social benefit of an organisation’s activities. This report explored the SROI method, looking particularly at its benefits, limitations and challenges. It then identified existing SROI reports from third sector organisations, which highlighted the wide use of this method. Three of these SROI reports (sampled for their relevance to re’new) were then examined in further detail to establish how they dealt with the challenging aspects of SROI analysis.

I also produced an impact map which shows a list of outcomes re’new are trying to achieve and the social impacts these outcomes have. These outcomes are divided into two categories of people and place which reflect re’new’s holistic definition of regeneration.

re’new were keen to extend this work beyond the 3 month placement and paid me to work for 8 days over August. This work has led to producing a list of indicators that will measure the outcomes listed in the impact map (the social outcomes of their activities). There is a future potential that re’new may like to conduct a full SROI analysis of their organisation. They have said if they decide to write a proposal for this project they would like me to be involved and conduct the analysis. I have already inquired with academics in Sociology and Social Policy department to see if anyone would be interested in supporting this research. Unfortunately it is not anyone’s area of expertise but I am going to get in touch with LUBS to see if anyone there is interested in the research project.