

**Appendix I: Examples of Search strategy**

Database	Search Terms
Web of Science	TS={"social return on investment" OR SROI}  Indexes=SCI-EXPANDED, SSCI, A&HCI, CPCI-S, CPCI-SSH, ESCI, CCR-EXPANDED, IC  timespan=2000-2018
MEDLINE	#1 "social return on investment".mp. [mp=title, abstract, original title, name of substance word, subject heading work, keyword heading word, protocol supplementary concept work, rare disease supplementary concept word, unique identifier, synonyms]  #2 SROI.mp. [mp=title, abstract, original title, name of substance word, subject heading work, keyword heading word, protocol supplementary concept work, rare disease supplementary concept word, unique identifier, synonyms]  #3 1 or 2
PsychINFO	#1 "social return on investment".mp. [mp=title, abstract, heading word, table of contents, key concepts, original title, tests & measures]  #2 SROI.mp. [mp=title, abstract, heading word, table of contents, key concepts, original title, tests & measures]  #3 1 or 2

## Appendix II: Data Extraction

Author/date	Country	Intervention	Study Design	Innovation / adaptations / additions to SROI methodology	Word Count	Externally referenced data	Quality Assessment
Arvidson et al. (2014)	UK	Community support for people with post-natal depression	Mixed methods; primary and secondary data sources	Costed in-kind support to calculate how many resources the organisation leverages based on funder investment (£1.30 for each £1)	5297	Refers to the existence of a logic model, dead-weight and drop-off but does not include in article – readers required to email contact author for full report	12/20 (60%)
Goudet et al. (2018)	Kenya	Home-based counselling of pregnant and breastfeeding women and mothers of young children	Mixed methods; primary data (quantitative and qualitative)	None identified	7577	Online links to full data set; additional file attached to online journal article containing steps in the program, content of counselling messages, full list of stakeholders, and assumptions for base case scenario variables.	18/20 (90%)
Kennedy & Phillips (2011)	UK	Community-based self-management training and support groups for people affected by substance and alcohol abuse	Primary data sources (interviews and questionnaire); Post-intervention data only	Beneficiary costs not typically included in SROI analysis. Authors included participants travel expenses to attend the intervention as an input.	3209	Downloadable supplementary information: stakeholders, questionnaires, and impact map	14/20 (70%)
Iafrati (2015)	UK	Residential drug addiction treatment centre	Pre/post primary data; quantitative and qualitative	Outcomes weighted at 65% (overall reported success rate of intervention according to organisation) to address positive sample bias  Focus on societal impacts under a socio-political	3904	None	8/21 (38%)

				framework rather than consumers personal outcomes			
Laing & Moules (2017)	Canada	Camp for children with cancer	Post intervention data collection	None identified	2919	Supplemental digital content (permalink through journal) – link to relevant table provided in-text. Link contains additional information about the theory of change, deadweight, indicators, and proxies.	14/20 (70%)
Mook et al. (2015)	Canada	Furniture bank for people transitioning out of homelessness, women and children escaping abusive situations, migrants and refugees	Post intervention, retrospective case worker surveys; secondary data	None identified	6446	None	12/20 (60%)
Scharlach (2015)	USA	Volunteer-assisted services for vulnerable older people living in the community	Pre/post assessment and interview data	An SROI ratio was calculated for service users based on membership fees	6076	None	10/21 (48%)
Willis et al. (2016)	UK	Peer-support groups for people with dementia (3 groups ran by different organisations)	Post-intervention data through interviews and focus groups	Weightings were applied to financial proxies to reflect that the 3 groups in the study met for different lengths of time and with different frequencies.	3842	External full SROI report – linked in the reference list of article (broken link). Full report contains additional information about stakeholders, inputs, deadweight, indicators and proxies	17/20 (85%)

## Appendix III: SROI Quality Assessment

Research Question	Scoring	Notes
Was a well-defined question posed?	Yes / No / Not clear	
<b>Reason for use of SROI Method</b>		
Were authors transparent about why SROI methodology was chosen? (e.g. strategic planning/funding requirements)	Yes / No / Not clear	
Did authors report relevant background literature/ justify the need for the study?	Yes / No / Not clear NA	
<b>Scope</b>		
Was the range of stakeholders included/excluded justified?	Yes / No / Not clear	
Was the range of stakeholders wide enough to adequately answer the research question? (principle of understanding change)	Yes / No / Not clear	
Was it clear how stakeholders were involved and what data would be gathered from them?	Yes / No / Not clear	
Was ethics obtained/informed consent provided?	Yes / No / Not clear	
<b>Theory of change/impact map</b>		
Was the theory of change clear? i.e. the relationships between inputs, outputs and outcomes	Yes / No / Not clear	
Were unintended outcomes (positive/negative) detailed?	Yes / No / Not clear	
<b>Study Design</b>		
Was the study design appropriate for the study question? (Control group, pre-post)	Yes / No / Not clear	
Was the sample described in detail/was the sample justified?	Yes / No / Not clear	

Analysis		
Were inputs clear with non-monetized inputs valued appropriately?	Yes / No / Not clear	
Were capital costs, as well as operating costs included?	Yes / No / Not clear / NA	
Were costs that occur in the future 'discounted' to their present values? Was justification given for the discount rate used?	Yes / No / Not clear	
Was dead-weight clearly described and calculated?	Yes / No / Not clear	
Were the indicators valid and comprehensive? (Were the sources of all values clearly identified?)	Yes / No / Not clear	
Were the proxies valid and comprehensive? (Were the sources of all values clearly identified?)	Yes / No / Not clear	
Was length of benefit established and justified? (Drop-off) (In capital projects, did authors establish and differentiate between length of benefit and life expectancy of the asset?)	Yes / No / Not clear	
Were limitations and biases reported?	Yes / No / Not clear	
Was the final SROI ratio interpreted?	Yes / No / Not clear	
Was sensitivity analysis performed? Was justification provided for the range of values (or for key study parameters) in the sensitivity analysis?	Yes / No / Not clear	