

Quiz yourself!

Decide whether the statements below are outputs, outcomes or impacts.

1. Twenty older people are taken on a day trip to the sea
2. 10% of the town signs up to walk to work day
3. We estimate that we have saved the health service around £80,000 for each participant on this course.
4. Lizards are found to be breeding in the pond
5. We answered 560 calls from people needing support
6. Probation officers reported a noticeable improvement in engagement with training
7. 26 residents are now report they feel less isolated and more positive after joining the club
8. The number of accidents on Winding Road reduced by 50%
9. The local MP put our concerns to the select committee
10. Mary's mother said, 'Her confidence has improved dramatically since she began music lessons'

Answers
1 – Output
2 – Outcome
3 – Impact
4 – Impact
5 – Output
6 – Outcome
7 – Impact
8 – Outcome
9 – Outcome
10 – Impact

Doglegs have run a dog-walking group for the last three years. They go out on walks every day – collecting dogs from their elderly or infirm owners and taking them for a long walk through the local farm. The walks used to be run solely by volunteers, but now they've teamed up with a local health centre and are often joined by people who have been recommended walking to improve their health. They walk up to ten dogs each day. Both the dogs and the walkers benefit from improved health and the dogs' owners are able to keep their pets when otherwise ill-health may have forced them to be rehomed.

- Highlight the outputs of this example.
- Where are the outcomes? Are they evidenced?
- What evidence could the organisation collect easily that would help to demonstrate impact?

Answers:

Outputs: Daily walks with 10 dogs belonging to elderly or infirm people (1), involving people referred by a health centre (2)

Outcomes: Improved health for dogs and walkers (1), enabling people to keep their pets (2). But neither is evidenced.

Demonstrating impact: They could ask walkers and dog owners what the impact of being a bit fitter has been. Have any of the walkers ended up making a bigger change to their lives? (e.g. getting a dog they continue to walk themselves). They could cite some statistics about the benefits of walking on health conditions. They could cite some studies about the benefit of having a pet for isolated people, or collect some testimonials.