Reviewing an Assessment: Key Questions by Stage

Understanding the original purpose

When and why was the assessment commissioned? Does this match your needs/situation or are you applying the assessment in another area of practice?

Considering the original context

Who completed the assessment/was involved and under what circumstances? Was there a history of community engagement or 'live' issues at the time? How might this have influenced the assessment?

Who owns the knowledge and how has it been shared and used to date?

Reflecting on the original process

How rapid and how participatory or collaborative was the assessment and why? What are the potential implications of those choices for understanding?

Was the assessment linked to community-led activities or in partnership with specific community organisations? Did it form part of a wider collaboration or project?

What types of knowledge did the methods used reveal and what might they not have revealed?

How did original purpose influence methods selection and interpretation?

Does the informed consent received cover the intended new application of the findings?

Considering the current context

Were there gaps or limitations in the original assessment (these may have been noted in the report or be identified as part of the review)?

If yes, do you have time and resources to address those now? What are the implications if not? If no, has the context changed?

What is the current management context? Are there new 'live' issues or other considerations? Is there evidence of activities (online or offline) that suggests interested communities or values not explored in the original assessment but which are relevant to your process?

Further actions

Do you need to revisit the original source material and process reflections (if available)? What are the potential impacts of your intended application of the findings (consider all stakeholders)? How might you engage with communities over the new application of the findings, is there scope for collaboration?

If additional assessment activities are required, refer to guidance on conducting or supporting an assessment for further key questions.



