

David Kane

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Employment history:

April 2018 – present. Freelance data scientist

As an independent data scientist/researcher I have worked with non-profit clients on projects to help them make the most out of their data and use open data resources effectively. I've particularly worked on an ongoing basis with 360Giving, a charity helping to spread the use of open data within UK grant makers. From July 2019 I will be working full-time with 360 Giving.

Clients and projects I have worked on include:

- Building tools and resources for the 360 Giving open data initiative such as [an insights tool](#)
- Creating [NGO Explorer](#) - a tool to help organisations outside the UK understand the UK charity sector
- Published a [report on transparency from charity regulators](#) across a number of countries
- Worked with Power to Change to help them use financial data to assess the impact of their grants
- Conducted research into charity tax for NCVO's Charity Tax Commission
- Helped Kingston CVS understand the voluntary sector in their local area
- Provide data and guidance for Big Lottery Fund on using open administrative data in their work

January 2018 – March 2018. Civil Society Data Officer, Greater London Authority

Helping the GLA work with London's civil society to improve data sharing and data resources. Included preparing GLA data to be published to open standards and organisation of an event matching data and research skills within the GLA with civil society organisations. Left position due to a desire to return to "hands-on" data and research projects.

January 2017 – December 2017. Data Scientist, CAST/Beehive

I worked on a start-up project connecting voluntary organisations with funding, using data sources and machine learning to recommend appropriate funders for projects submitted to the site. The role involved managing the data pipeline for Beehive including loading open data sources into the site, as well as contributions to site development (using Ruby on Rails), product strategy and user research. I provided ad hoc data support to Cast's wider work with funders and charities.

January 2007 – January 2017. Senior Research Officer, National Council for Voluntary Organisations

At NCVO I led on data collection, storage and analysis for NCVO's flagship [UK Civil Society Almanac publication](#), a compendium of statistics on the voluntary sector in the UK. This role involved bringing together large survey and administrative datasets, particularly the Charity Commission Register of Charities. I managed the data for the Almanac using a combination of MySQL databases and Python scripts, with legacy data held in Access and MSSQL databases, SPSS data files, and Microsoft Excel files.

This involved the maintenance and manipulation of a large-scale database holding financial data about charities, including designing and implementing the data entry process whereby data is gathered from charities accounts, to designing and implementing the storage of the data and analysis of it for research purposes.

As well as directly manipulating raw data used to produce the Almanac, I also wrote about the data in a variety of forms. This includes writing for the eight editions of the publication itself and writing spin-off publications (eg work for Lloyds Bank Foundation on small charities and [Counting the Cuts](#)). I wrote a blog at NCVO using a wide range of data to examine issues relevant to the voluntary sector – [giving background to current events in the sector](#), [factchecking manifesto claims](#), and even seen if [Benford's Law can be applied to the data charities supply](#). I've presented papers and research at conferences – both academic and for the general public.

I also led NCVO's emerging work in open data. After this was identified as an area of interest for the voluntary sector and NCVO's membership, I developed NCVO's thinking in this area, particularly around the opportunities and challenges the agenda presents for voluntary organisations. My work on open data includes speaking and attending events and blogging about the importance of data for charities.

I have created a number of public facing websites for NCVO, notably the WordPress-based site data.ncvo.org.uk. For the data.ncvo.org.uk website I created a plugin which allowed rich graphics to be displayed, and allowed registered users to interact with them by picking the data that is most relevant to them.

The role gave me a deep understanding of many of the policy issues affecting the Voluntary Sector. A large part of the role involved undertaking consultancy projects, combining external datasets, in a variety of formats, with the core Charity register dataset.

December 2005 – January 2007. Data Strategy Worker, Social Services, West Sussex County Council

Testing and support of the implementation of Domiciliary Care information system.

January 2005 – November 2005. Temporary admin and assistant roles. NHS / Social Services, Exeter, Devon County Council Social Services, Mott MacDonald, Winchester

Education

2013 Online course - Introduction to Data Science, University of Washington

I undertook this short course through the Coursera online learning platform. I found the content stimulating and challenging, covering areas such as map reduce function, python data manipulation, and relational databases.

2001 – 2004 BA Geography, degree class 2.1, University of Exeter

Developed excellent analytical and research skills across a wide range of subjects including investigating climate change, international development and contemporary political issues. Significant practical experience with computing and statistics as part of course, including modules concerning SPSS and GIS. The course also included statistical analysis of questionnaires and climate change modelling.

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| 1999 – 2001 | A-Levels - Peter Symonds College, Winchester, Hampshire. Maths (Grade A), Psychology (A), Geography (B) and General Studies (B). |
| 1994 – 1999 | GCSEs - The Westgate School, Winchester. 11 GCSEs A*-C, including Maths (A*), Statistics (A), English Literature (A) and Double Science (AA). |

Volunteer Experience

2011 – 2017. Trustee, Voluntary Sector Studies Network

Trustee of a small charity which aims to bring together researchers with an interest in studying the voluntary sector. Responsible for maintenance and development of the charity's small Drupal-based website, and replacing it with a bespoke WordPress site.

2006 – 2011. Website design for “Skylark” charitable organisation

2003 –2004. Community Action Project Leader at University of Exeter.

Part of two person team organising Saturday afternoon Kids Club, providing activities for a group of fifteen 8-12 year old children from disadvantaged backgrounds. The children were referred to us by Social Services, and part of the role involved selecting and visiting prospective children and their families.