
Looking to the Future

January 2011

**The Voluntary and Community
Sector:
Experience and Ambition**

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Charities working for
children and families



The context

- Long term and serious public sector reductions
IoF estimate £1bn loss to VCS next year
- Local decision making
- Less infrastructure support; local/regional/national
- Ending duplication and waste
- New forms of organisation
- Communities under pressure
- Greater emphasis on attainment from DfE
- Public/press assumptions and myths about services and needs



There are dangers to navigate

- **Increasing demand for many services as cuts bite and adult unemployment grows**
- **Chronic uncertainty and churn for the next two years, in funding and structures and policies**
- **Rationing by raising thresholds**
- **Increasing competition, with new mutuals and well as within the VCS**
- **Wait for new funding mechanisms such as Social Impact Bonds**
- **Application of payments by results**
- **Maintaining relationships**



This is our bread and butter

Big Society

Engagement

Volunteering

Prevention

Early intervention

Community action

Localism

Reach

Self help

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What does the VCS bring to the table?

Early Intervention; none stigmatised services, there when you need them, support embedded in the community

Personalisation; we are used to providing services tailored to individual need and circumstances

Place based budgets; we have a track record in mixing and matching funding and targets and working in multi agency partnerships

Localism; we build from the bottom up; with and of the communities we serve.

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What are we contributing now?

- **Participation and Engagement**
- **Active , supportive partnerships**
- **Professionalism**
- **Cost effective practice**
- **Early intervention and innovation**
- **A motivated workforce**
- **Services built on principles and passion**



Messages from Government

Protecting Sure Start Expenditure

Effective early intervention (Allan/Munro)

Reducing barriers to effective commissioning

Helping the VCS and statutory sector learn from each other and work better together

Support for volunteering

Services led by users

Cutting red tape



Opportunities

- ✓ Meeting local need not national targets
- ✓ Emphasis on the front line
- ✓ Support for Volunteers £10m pa , £4.5 infrastructure support
- ✓ Local communities and users leading services
- ✓ More support for innovation
- ✓ Public health agenda
- ✓ Real challenges to service silos
- ✓ VCS as lead provider or support service



Risks we must manage

- **Transitions : move to local/ dismantling structures when nothing new in place/funding streams**
- **Unrealistic expectations: from partners and families**
- **Defending services for “unpopular” groups**
- **Over-supply**
- **Taking care of the smaller groups**
- **Postcode disparities/ inequalities**
- **Lack of capacity and speed of change**
- **Impact of cuts on participation**



How will we need to change?

- **Collaboration, partnerships, crossing traditional boundaries!**
- **Proving evidence /evaluation/ shouting about what works and defending it**
- **Visible value for money and cutting cost where we can; prove efficiency**
- **Building services around the needs of cyp&f: step up for new service models**
- **Skill up for new forms of finance**
- **Tackle workforce challenges**



We do it OUR way

We can do this and we don't have to behave like the private sector to make it work either.

Being business-like doesn't have to mean being like a business!

Listen to and track the changing needs of your users. Knowledge is power and this is *commercial* intelligence the private sector would love

Build on our USP's

TRUST

ACCESS

IN DEPTH UNDERSTANDING

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How can we best deliver for the people and communities that need us?

- ✓ **Services and organisations supporting each other.**
- ✓ **Work together with service users and in consortia and partnerships**
- ✓ **Play an active part in the networks**
- ✓ **“Stitch in time” services: Early intervention is our strength**
- ✓ **Be proactive, try new ideas**

BE BRAVE and PERSISTENT



**Times like these are why we are
here**

**Children, young people and
families need us on their side
and by their side.**

www.childrenengland.org.uk

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