

# **The changing relationship Voluntary Sector and Local Authorities**

# What does the sector bring

- Great knowledge and insight on local need
- Ability to engage with the harder to reach
- Ability to explore new ways of offering more tailored services
- Ability to support services through use of volunteers
- Inspiring active citizenship, community cohesion and pride

*Making Good, The Future of the Voluntary Sector states: (**Charity Times**)*

## **A turning point**

There is the need for the voluntary sector, collectively, to set a clear direction for its future, rather than passively responding to different forces – including from the state, which is looking to the voluntary sector to help it cut costs, reshape services and re-engage with the public. The voluntary sector must also adapt to reflect social and technological change, different expectations and increasing diversity within the sector itself.

## **Question**

- 1. Does the voluntary sector in Bedfordshire have a clear vision for the future?*
- 2. Who is driving this agenda?*

# The future as defined in the report

## **Making good: the future of the voluntary sector**

Drawing on the insights within the report, what might the voluntary sector look like over the next decade?

First, there would be strong, collective and inclusive, leadership on the issues that matter – a powerful, independent, and widely respected voice that speaks for local and community based organisations just as effectively as national ones. The sector's mission would be, ultimately, to put itself out of a job, by seeking to solve, not just alleviate, social problems. To this end, it would be empowering individuals and communities, and collaborating with other sectors, for the common good. Its ability to generate social capital and value beyond money through the passion and goodwill of its volunteers and donors would be seen as central and valued accordingly.

# 21<sup>st</sup> Century Public Servant (University of Birmingham)

- Great insight into future expectations of the workforce
- Definition of a public servant no longer defines only those employed by a local authority but all workers in roles that are engaging public services.

## Skills set identified

### Generic:

1. Interpersonal skills (*facilitation, empathy and political skills*)
2. Synthesizing skills (*sorting evidence, analysis, making judgements, offering critique and being creative*)
3. Organising Skills (*for groupwork, collaboration and peer review*)
4. Communication skills (*making better use of new media and multi media resources*)

### Technical Skills:

1. Commercial Skills
2. Technological/digital skills
3. Leadership

### Role Specific:

**Would depend on the service offer and statutory.mandatory framework**

## **A sample vision from one local authority**

To ensure that communities are resilient and supported by an effective and sustainable voluntary and community sector.

1: To strengthen communities and to increase effectiveness and impact of the voluntary sector so that it can support communities to be more resilient, by enabling neighbours, communities and families to support one another, and local people to take the lead on improving their local areas through voluntary action.

2: To improve local voluntary sector capacity to deliver quality local services that people need, and that new types of services, which best meet people's needs are developed with and by the sector (through new models of delivery).

# How do we step up locally?

- Q What can we do to support each other?
- Q How do we build capacity?
- Q How do we develop new skills in the sector?
- Q What are the skills sets that will be required?

Lots of questions – I don't have all the answers and shouldn't because the future should very much be about co production, independence and the ability to shape the future of public services.

# To conclude

My message would be to work with VOCypf and be part of its influence as a respected representative of the sector. Use it as a vessel to communicate and interact with public sector organisations and each other.

Co-production, co-support and enablement is the future – let's find ways to work together, embrace it and make it work for our communities

You are good at.....



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# You said, we listened

Safeguarding Training needs for the sector

**E Learning** (4 week completion window too small) changed to 6 weeks

**Locations** We try to utilise venues that are accessible with reasonable parking and access across Bedfordshire

**Costs** – reduced to £37.50 for full day and £25.00 for half a day

**Training time** – We offer a range of days and times including evening and weekends but are limited due to the multi agency requirements of our audience

**Book on to our free workshop event: Stay for one workshop, two, three or all four, the choice is yours. Rufus Centre on Themes Contextual Safeguarding, Teenage Brain**

## **Workshop themes**

### **Introduction to Contextual Safeguarding**

This workshop provides an introduction to understanding, and responding to, young people's experiences of significant harm beyond their families.

### **Teenage Brain**

This workshop focuses on a key stage of brain development showing how changes in the adolescent brain can affect emotions, relationships, behaviours and attitudes to risk.

### **Jenny's Story**

This hard hitting workshop portrays one real life experience of the consequences of chatting online.

### **Seeing Not Hearing**

This workshop covers the basics of observation and what to do if you are concerned about a child or young person.