

Holyrood community planning conference

Tuesday 1st September 2015

A third sector perspective

Calum Irving, Voluntary Action Scotland

Voluntary
Action
Scotland



Introduction

- VAS and Third Sector Interfaces
- Since 2013
- Learning from improvement work
- Potential for change
- The opportunity



VAS...and the TSIs

Voluntary Action Scotland

“Voluntary Action Scotland is the national network organisation that champions, connects and develops Scotland’s Third Sector Interfaces (TSIs) to support the third sector locally.”

Ambition (in part)

“.....we advocate for the best possible environment in which the third sector locally can thrive and contribute to better and fairer outcomes for the people we serve.”



The TSIs

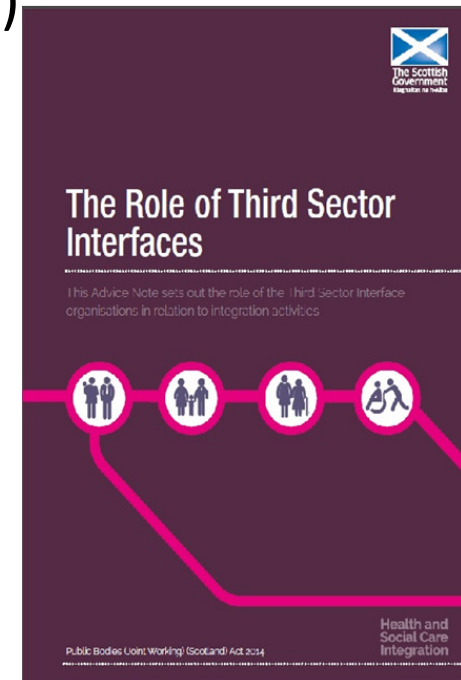
- From 2009: integrated funding
- They come from mergers or partnerships of: CVS's, VCs and SENs to support;
 - Volunteering
 - Volunteer involving organisations
 - Social enterprise
 - **Build the third sector relationship with community planning**
- Of the third sector and for third sector with some SG support
- One in each LA area



Since 2013



- My learning: complexity
- Statement of Ambition, Audit Scotland, TSIs on CPP Boards
- Raft of public service reform (third sector inclusive)
- Better TSI understanding of role
- Some great collaborative relationships
- In yet...
- Scepticism
- Resource pressures
- Inequality – demand
- *Is CP cut out for the task?.....of more later*



TSI Community Planning Improvement Programme (CPIP)

Voluntary
Action
Scotland

- Improvement Service, VAS and five TSIs
- Understand, explore and improve TSI role
- Two sides: third sector – statutory sector
- Partners: better understanding and regard for TSI and third sector impact on CP
- Better working relationships
- Focussed – jointly shared improvement plans



TSI Community Planning Improvement Programme (CPIP)

Voluntary
Action
Scotland

- My reading;
 - *Demystified CP for third sector: an opportunity*
 - *Shifted CP partners perceptions of third sector*
- What it takes;
 - *Agreed improvements (all round)*
 - *But also working on the relationships*
 - *Not one or t'other!*



Potential for improvement: “Re-imagining community planning”



- Deliberative exercise: Dr Oliver Escobar, TSIs and VAS
- Echoes of CPIP;
 - Capacity of third sector to take part
 - Role definition for third sector in CP
 - Language and understanding of CP
 - Power balance within CP
 - Ability to challenge (funding relationships)
 - Mutual accountability
 - Centrality of CP in decision making
 - Culture
 - Third sector negotiation and influencing skills
 - Unhelpful competition in third sector



Potential for improvement: “Re-imagining community planning”



- Recommends actions that can be taken now
- Vision for CP;
 - A new role for CP in local democracy
 - A space for collaborative decision making
 - Improvements to how CP works
 - New role for third sector in CP
- Third sector;
 - Resource sharing (just as per statutory sector)
 - TSI culture change: leaders, reach to sector
 - Build strategic capacity of sector
- TSI not a substitute for community participation



The Opportunity

Voluntary
Action
Scotland

- The vision:
 - *“CP as a space for collaborative and participative policy making”*
- Supports SG vision for better community involvement
- *Is it cut out for the task?*
 - *Big pressures; big challenges*
 - *Yes, optimistic!*

