

# The big society

**The role of the voluntary and community sectors in the continuing modernisation of adult social care**

**Date:** Tuesday 19 October 2010

**Venue:** ORT House Conference Centre, London NW1



## Key speakers

**Dame Elizabeth Hoodless**

*Chief Executive, CSV*

**Lord Victor Adebawale, CBE**

*Chief Executive, Turning Point*

**Belinda Pratten**

*Head of Policy, NCVO*

**Sian Lockwood** *Chief Executive,  
Community Catalysts*

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### Programme

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**9.30am Registration**

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**10.00am Welcome and introduction**

Chair: **Richard Jones** *President, Association of Directors of Adult Services*

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**10.15am Ministerial address**

**Paul Burstow** *Minister of State, Department of Health (invited)*

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**10.45am Reaching lives the state can't: video address on how the community and voluntary sectors change lives**

**Bob Holman** *Community Activist*

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**10.55am Building capacity: the role of the Office of Civic Society**

**Rolande Andersen** *Director General, Office of Civic Society*

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**11.25am Enabling participation: how small groups can work together to provide effective services**

**Michael O'Toole** *Chief Executive, 3SC*

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**11.45am Refreshments**

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**12.15pm A pot of gold at the end of the rainbow: can a commissioning state and delivering the 'big society' end the inverse care law?**

**Lord Victor Adebawale, CBE** *Chief Executive, Turning Point*

At present, those who need the most support for their health and social care needs tend to receive less than their fair share of resources. Can greater involvement of the community and voluntary sectors improve this and ensure that resources are distributed more effectively than at present?

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**12.45pm The need for a long spoon? Are the voluntary and community sectors only going to exist to be the delivery arm of a reduced state?**

**Belinda Pratten** *Head of Policy, NCVO*

Can a campaigning and activities community and voluntary sector exist alongside its commitment to deliver public services? Will organisations that benefit from large contracts be able to effectively campaign for change and fight against injustices created by the new system? What chances will there be for developing new organisations?

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**1.15pm Lunch**

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**2.00pm Continuity or all change: how does the 'big society' fit with the existing pathway of personalisation?**

**Martin Routledge** *National Programmes Lead, Putting People First (Delivery), Department of Health*

Personalisation has been the major driver for modernisation in adult social care for the past six years. The introduction of personal and individual budgets, direct control and choice of creating service providers, and the involvement of people who use services in creating their own care plans has changed the relationship between the state and the individual. Will the development of the 'big society' into policy change this focus, speed up its implementation, or slow things down?

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**2.30pm The role of volunteering: a sticky plaster or a radical call to action to reinvigorate civil society?**

**Dame Elizabeth Hoodless** *Chief Executive, CSV*

Volunteering is the life blood of civil society. At present some 22 million people in the UK volunteer for a whole range of tasks. Is it a safe conclusion that the development of the big society in adult social care will lead to more opportunities being taken up as people engage in the challenge of supporting our most vulnerable members of society? Or will the pressure of work and life in the 21st century mean that the withdrawal of the state from the position of provider will leave gaping holes in the safety net?

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**3.00pm Refreshments**

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**3.15pm Building capacity: channelling community energy and creativity through micro enterprise**

**Sian Lockwood** *Chief Executive, Community Catalysts*

Is micro enterprise an effective way to channel social capital and the energy of civic society? How can a cash strapped public purse provide more than just seed capital, or is this not necessary?

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**3.45pm What does the future hold: how can I prepare my organisation?**

**Ritchard Brazil** *Consultant, The Stamford Forum*

For the current leaders of adult services, voluntary sector providers and community groups, how to prepare for the uncertainties ahead will be a major element of their role in the next three years as the public finances are rebalanced. What skills, attributes and approaches will senior staff and sector leaders need to guide their organisation and people through the challenges ahead? What will the successful organisation look like in the big society?

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**4.15pm Chair's summary**

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**4.30pm Networking refreshments**

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**5.00pm Close**

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# About the conference

The coalition government has signalled its intention to set out a new framework for the devolution of power to local communities. Its objective is to ensure individual citizens and local communities are more engaged in the design and delivery of the services they need, and it sees a greater role for charities, social enterprises, co-operatives and the like in the management of public services. Set against this is the government's drive to reduce the deficit and a consequential new financial climate for all public services.

This conference will draw on expert speakers from across the public, voluntary and community sectors, and academia and government to help signpost the development of enhanced relationships between the three sectors. It comes at a time when the public, voluntary and community sectors are seeking to modernise care and support services and work more closely with citizens and local communities in the context of the challenges presented by the new fiscal and demographic realities.

## Key questions to be addressed

- What do the ambitions of the big society mean for the personalisation of social care services?
- How can the government and the voluntary and community sectors work together to continue the modernisation of delivery and build the social capital required to improve outcomes for people with additional needs for care and support?
- Will less money mean poorer outcomes?
- What will payment for performance look like?
- What will devolution of power mean for people with care and/or support needs?
- How can power be balanced? Is this a move to end full cost recovery by the third sector?
- What are the implications for the organisational health of charities and independent community bodies? Will they simply become agents of the state?
- How can risk within new structures be managed without damaging creativity?
- How can capacity within the sectors to improve outcomes be enhanced?

## Key themes

- The role of the sector
- Moving towards payment by result and measuring outcomes
- Implications for cost recovery and independence
- Building capacity to deliver improved outcomes

## Who should attend?

- Senior staff from voluntary sector providers
- Senior staff from community based organisations providing social care services
- Directors of adult services
- Heads of adult social services



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